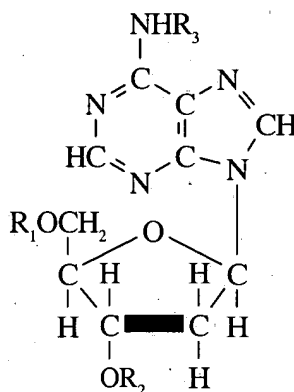


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-46. (cancelled).

47. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxyadenosine, having the formula

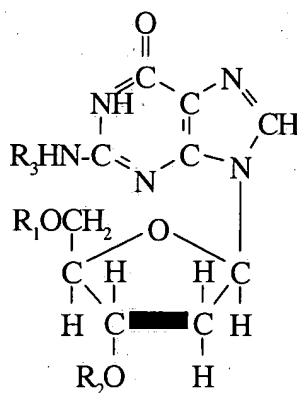


wherein R₁, R₂, and R₃ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are H, and where R_3 is not H, then R_1 and/or R_2 may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxyguanosine having the formula

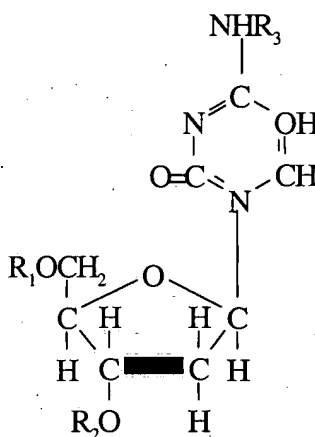


wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, phenylalanine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are H, and where R_3 is not H, then R_1 and/or R_2 may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

49. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxycytidine, having the formula

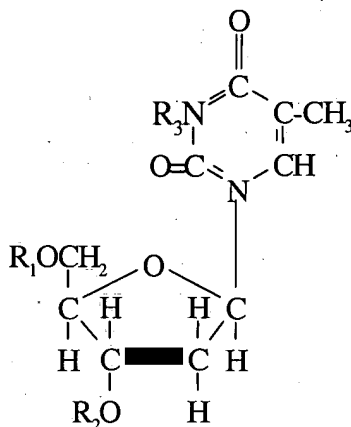


wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are the same or different and each is hydrogen or an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or

(d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, provided that not all of R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are H, and where R_3 is not H, then R_1 and/or R_2 may also be acetyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

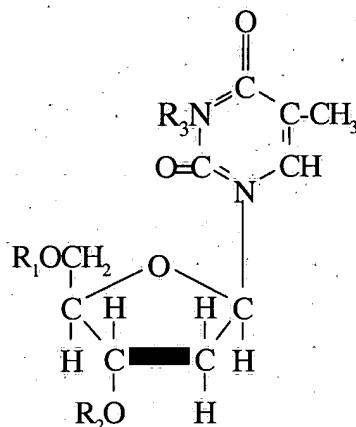
50. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R_1 is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 15 or 17 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid having 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R_2 and R_3 are H, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

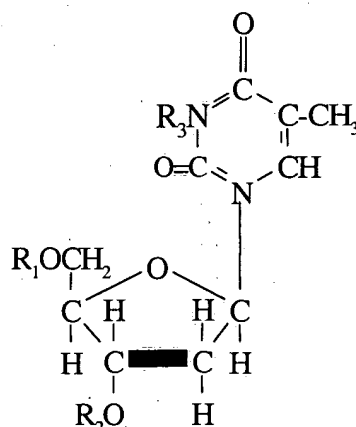
51. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R_1 is H, R_2 is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 3 to 13 or 15 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R_3 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

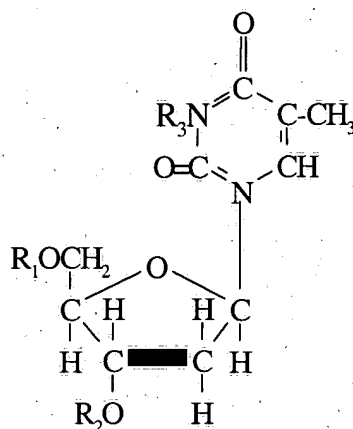
52. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and each is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 5 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L-forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid, or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R_3 is H or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

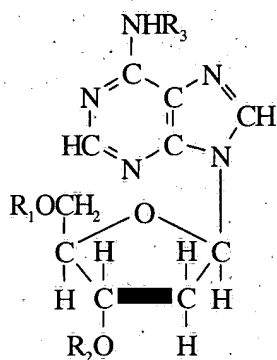
53. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing a mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an acyl derivative of 2'-deoxythymidine, having the formula



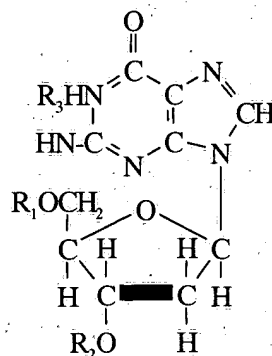
wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same or different and each is an acyl group derived from

- (a) an unbranched fatty acid with 2 to 22 carbon atoms,
- (b) an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, the L forms of alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, tyrosine, proline, hydroxyproline, serine, threonine, cysteine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, arginine, lysine, histidine, carnitine, and ornithine,
- (c) nicotinic acid or
- (d) a dicarboxylic acid with 3 to 22 carbon atoms, and R_3 is an acyl group derived from an optionally substituted benzoyl or heterocyclic carboxylic acid that is substantially nontoxic, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

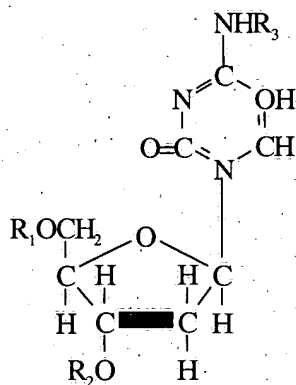
54. (previously presented) A method for treating or preventing a mutagen-induced cellular damage comprising administering to an animal an effective amount of a composition comprising an effective amount of each of at least two compounds selected from at least two of the groups of compounds having formulae



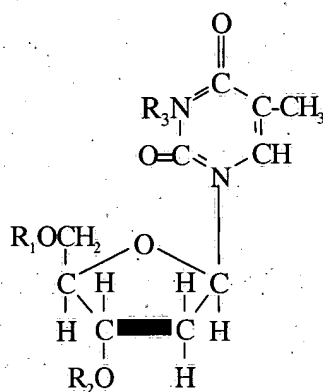
(I)



(II)



(III)



(IV)

wherein R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are the same or different and each is H or an acyl group derived from a carboxylic acid, provided that at least one of said substituents R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 on each of said groups of compounds is not hydrogen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.